

**LISTING OF CLAIMS:**

{1} 1. (Currently amended) A connecting terminal including a connecting portion, a U-shaped core conductor clamping portion and a U-shaped sheath clamping portion, which are arranged in this order viewed from a front side to a back side, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein plate-like portions are provided on both sides of a portion of the connecting terminal between the connecting portion and the core conductor clamping portion, and top portions of said plate-like portions are substantially linearly coupled with a top portion of the core conductor clamping portion via coupling portions.

{2} 2. (Currently amended) The connecting terminal according to claim 1, wherein a rear end of said connecting portion is locked by a locking lance when the connecting terminal is installed within a housing.

{3} 3. (Currently amended) The connecting terminal according to claim 2, wherein said plate-like portions are engaged with locking recesses formed in both side walls of said locking lance.